

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLASSIFIED

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
JCS  
DOD  
CIA  
USIA  
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 038170

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 13

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 13,  
1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS KENNETH BROWN.

Q. THE ISRAELI CABINET YESTERDAY PUT OUT A STATEMENT  
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EXPRESSING ITS REGRET ABOUT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY  
SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND PROTESTED AND SAID THAT THE  
CABINET EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES WILL RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, PRESUMABLY ON  
THE SETTLEMENTS. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENTS REMAINS STATED AS  
IT WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY, AND I THINK  
WE'VE MADE IT CLEAR. WE'VE ALSO NOTED THAT IT IS AN  
ISSUE TO BE SETTLED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BY THE PARTIES.

Q. HOWEVER, HE THEN GOES ON TO SAY FLATLY THAT THE  
SETTLEMENTS ARE IN CONFORMANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW  
AND THEY ARE LEGAL, LEGITIMATE AND ESSENTIAL. DO YOU  
CONTINUE TO DISAGREE WITH THAT?

A. AS STATED REPEATEDLY BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE  
SECRETARY, WE CONSIDER THE SETTLEMENTS CONTRARY TO  
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY ASSURANCES FROM THE ISRAELIS THAT  
WORK IN AND AROUND THE SETTLEMENTS -- PARTICULARLY IN  
THE SINAI -- WILL COME TO A HALT, OR HAS COME TO A  
HALT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THAT.  
WE HAVE JUST SEEN THE REPORTS THAT THAT WAS THE CASE.

Q. ARE YOU ENCOURAGED BY THE REPORTS OR DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?

A. I REALLY COULDN'T COMMENT ANY FURTHER SINCE WE'VE JUST SEEN PRESS REPORTS.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS NOW?  
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A. GOOD. GOOD RELATIONS.

Q. NO CHANGE FROM FRIDAY?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU WANT TO ELABORATE ON THAT A BIT?

A. AS YOU KNOW, WE REMAIN DEDICATED TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

Q. COULD YOU PLEASE CLARIFY YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISRAELI POLICY REGARDING THE SHILOH SETTLEMENT, BECAUSE THE SECRETARY RETRACTED SOME STATEMENTS MADE IN HERE DURING THE WEEK THAT YOU HAVE BEEN REASSURED ABOUT SHILOH. ON FRIDAY THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CLEAR ABOUT SHILOH.

A. HE SAID IF IT WERE A QUESTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK, THAT WAS ONE THING. IF IT WERE NOT, THAT WAS ANOTHER QUESTION -- THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT THE ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

Q. HAVEN'T YOU HAD A CLEAR WORD FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON SHILOH?

A. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IN THE PAST.

Q. MR. DAYAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS TAKING SIDES ON THE SETTLEMENT ISSUE. HOW DO YOU REACT ON THAT?  
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A. I THINK THAT WE HAVE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THE SETTLEMENTS, BUT WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT BOTH SIDES WISH US TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE DISCUSSIONS. THIS POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS IS ONE THAT GOES BACK A LONG WAY. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE

JUST COME OUT WITH RECENTLY. IT'S BEEN SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY HELD BY ALL ADMINISTRATIONS SINCE THE 1967 WAR.

Q. CAN YOU GO BACK TO THE DECEMBER TALKS BETWEEN BEGIN AND PRESIDENT CARTER? SPECIFICALLY, DID MR. BEGIN OUTLINE THE PROPOSALS FOR THE SINAI SETTLEMENTS AT THAT TIME, AND WHAT WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S REACTION AS YOU RECALL IT?

A. I CAN'T GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED, BUT THE PRIME MINISTER DID OUTLINE CERTAIN PROPOSALS REGARDING A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE SAID THEN, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, THAT THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED BY THE PRIME MINISTER WERE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEGOTIATION. THAT'S THE WAY WE WOULD CHARACTERIZE THEM.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT EVER EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH THE PROPOSALS, AS MR. DAYAN SAID YESTERDAY?

A. I'VE JUST NOTED HOW WE FELT ABOUT THEM AT THAT TIME, AND WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THEY WERE CONSTRUCTIV SUGGESTIONS FOR NEGOTIATION. BEYOND THAT I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE CHARACTERIZED THEM IN ANY OTHER WAY. WE DID NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THEM IN DETAIL.

Q. HOW CAN THE SECRETARY SAY, ON THE ONE HAND, THAT SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI SHOULD NOT EXIST AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO TRY TO MAINTAIN A ROLE OF HONEST BROKER  
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AND SAY THAT THE FINAL DESTINY OF THE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE DECIDED IN NEGOTIATIONS?

A. I'M NOT CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, THE MEDIATOR HAS A POSITION HERE THAT THE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST, BUT STILL HE SAYS THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE DECIDED IN NEGOTIATIONS. SO WHETHER IT SHOULD BE DECIDED IN NEGOTIATION OR HE HAS A POSITION, WHAT SHOULD BE THE DECISION?

A. WE MAY HAVE VIEWS ON A GIVEN ISSUE IN THE DISPUTE, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT COMPROMISES OUR ROLE AS A MEDIATOR; AND AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, BOTH SIDES WISH US TO CONTINUE THAT ROLE.

Q. WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY MEAN EXACTLY BY SAYING THAT THOSE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST? DOES HE MEAN THAT THEY SHOULD BE DISMANTLED?

A. I THINK YOU CAN INFER THAT. THE SETTLEMENTS ARE CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Q. AND YOU'RE REFERRING TO ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. WAIT. COULD WE MAKE SURE? YOU'RE SAYING THE WEST AS WELL AS THE SINAI?

A. IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Q. THE SECRETARY REFERRED ON FRIDAY TO THE SINAI  
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SPECIFICALLY.

A. OUR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENTS IS IN ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Q. YOU'RE SAYING TODAY THAT THE SETTLEMENTS IN ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SHOULD BE DISMANTLED?

A. I DON'T WANT TO SEE A LEAD THAT SAYS: "STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS THE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE DISMANTLED." I'M USING THE WORDS OF THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY THAT THE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST.

Q. IF WE CONSIDER THEM TO BE ILLEGAL, AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW -- NOT EGYPTIAN LAW OR ISRAELI LAW -- THEN WHAT'S TO NEGOTIATE?

A. THE EGYPTIANS SAID THEY DON'T WANT THE SETTLEMENTS THERE.

REMOVAL, WOULD BE SATISFACTORY IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW?

A. HERE AGAIN, THAT IS SOMETHING TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE PARTIES. IF THE PARTIES DECIDE THAT SETTLEMENTS SHOULD REMAIN, THEN THE SETTLEMENTS COULD REMAIN.

Q. THAT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW THOUGH, WOULD IT NOT?

A. IF THERE ARE TWO SOVEREIGN STATES INVOLVED AND THEY DECIDE THAT ONE SETTLEMENT OR ANOTHER CAN REMAIN ON A GIVEN PIECE OF TERRITORY, I WOULD NOT SEE THAT THAT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Q. COULD YOU REFER ME TO ANY PREVIOUS STATEMENT BY  
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THE ADMINISTRATION THAT SAID WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID NOW,  
THAT THOSE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD BE DISMANTLED?

A. PLEASE STRIKE THAT FROM THE RECORD. DON'T USE THE  
VERB "DISMANTLED." ALL I WANT TO DO IS REITERATE  
WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON FRIDAY. THAT'S ALL I WANT  
DONE. I'M NOT GOING BEYOND HIS LANGUAGE. SO WHEN I  
SEE YOUR LEAD: "STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS SETTLEMENTS  
SHOULD BE DISMANTLED," I'LL COME AFTER YOU.

Q. YOU TOLD ME JUST NOW THAT I CAN INFER THAT FROM HIS  
STATEMENT. ARE YOU RETRACTING SOMETHING?

A. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE HAVE SAID THAT THE  
FUTURE OF THE SETTLEMENTS MUST BE DECIDED BY  
NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN  
LEAD WITH, I.K.? WE'RE NOT CALLING FOR THE DISMANTLEMENT  
OR DISMANTLING OF THE SETTLEMENTS. WE'RE SAYING THAT IN  
VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEY'RE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW  
THEY SHOULDN'T BE THERE AND NOW THE FUTURE, THE NEXT  
STEP, IS UP TO THE PARTIES.

Q. CAN YOU REFER ME TO ANY PREVIOUS STATEMENT IN WHICH  
ANY OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SAID THAT THOSE  
SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST IN PUBLIC?

A. BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON FRIDAY?

Q. AS FAR AS HE WENT ON FRIDAY.

A. I CAN REFER YOU TO THE FACT THAT OUR POSITION ON ALL

SETTLEMENTS IN ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAS BEEN  
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CONSTANT AND HAS BEEN CONSTANT PRIOR TO THIS ADMINISTRATI  
AS TO THE EXACT WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE  
THE SETTLEMENTS, REFER TO THE SETTLEMENTS, I DON'T HAVE  
THAT AND I CAN'T GIVE YOU SPECIFICS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT NEW CONSTRUCTION IN EAST JERUSALEM? DOES  
THIS APPLY HERE, TOO? HOW FAR DO YOU EXTEND THIS?

A. THE QUESTION OF EAST JERUSALEM IS SOMETHING THAT HAS  
TO BE DECIDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AS WELL. I'M NOT  
GOING TO GET INTO QUALIFYING THE ACTIVITIES IN EAST  
JERUSALEM.

Q. BUT ISN'T THAT IN EFFECT A SETTLEMENT IN

"OCCUPIED TERRITORY?"

A. DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH. I'M JUST SAYING I'M NOT GOING TO QUALIFY IT, BUT THE QUESTION OF EAST JERUSALEM IS SOMETHING, OBVIOUSLY, THAT IS UNDER DISCUSSION.

Q. ON THAT POINT, DOES THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE THE ANNEXATION OF EAST JERUSALEM?

A. NO.

Q. WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE DISMANTLED IF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY ARE LEGALLY IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THEN?

A. I JUST SAID THAT IT IS A QUESTION NOW TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE'VE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR ON IT, AND WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT THOSE INVOLVED ARE THE ONES THAT ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE THE FUTURE.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER UNCLASSIFIED

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SAY THAT JORDAN'S ARAB LEGION BARRACKS AND OTHER HOUSING WAS ILLEGAL FROM 1948 WHEN GLUB PASHA LED THE ARAB LEGION IN AN INVASION OF THE WEST BANK?

A. I DON'T KNOW. YOU COULD CONSULT THE ARCHIVES ON THAT IF YOU LIKE.

Q. I WONDER IF YOU COULD TAKE THAT QUESTION. I'M TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT YOU MEAN BY "ILLEGAL." DID WE REGARD THAT AS ILLEGAL FOR THE ARAB LEGION TO INVADE AND OCCUPY THE WEST BANK?

A. YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK TOO FAR, SO I CAN'T REALLY GO INTO THAT. THE POINT IS, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS NOW.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY, OR RATHER THE OTHER DAY, IN "DAVAR," IN ISRAEL, THAT U.S. OBSERVATION PLANES DISCOVERED SIX SECRETLY-ESTABLISHED POINTS ON THE SINAI WHERE ISRAEL APPARENTLY INTENDED TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS, AND FOLLOWING AMERICAN DISCOVERY OF THESE SIX POINTS, THE WORK WAS FROZEN BY THE ISRAELIS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THIS REPORT AT ALL?

A. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT, BUT WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT STORY.

Q. WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER U.S. OBSERVATION PLANES WERE

INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED HERE?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

Q. OTHER THAN THE RESPONSE WHICH YOU'RE GIVING US HERE  
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TODAY, HAS THE UNITED STATES MADE ANY OTHER RESPONSE  
TO THE ISRAELI CABINET NOTE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS?

A. I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE MADE A FORMAL RESPONSE.  
OF COURSE, WE'RE IN CONTACT CONSTANTLY WITH THE ISRAELI  
GOVERNMENT. IT'S SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED  
WITH OUR EMBASSY THERE.

Q. COULD YOU SUGGEST A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE AMERICAN  
POSITION AS EXPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY W,TH  
REGARD TO THE SETTLEMENTS WHEN HE SAID THE SETTLEMENTS  
SHOULD NOT EXIST? COULD YOU COMPARE IT TO THE EGYPTIAN  
POSITION ON THAT ISSUE?

A. WELL, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE EGYPTIANS SAY THE  
SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST.

Q. I MEAN, HOW FAR THESE POSITIONS ARE FAR OR CLOSE,

A. I DON'T REALLY THINK I SHOULD GO INTO ANY DETAILED  
COMPARISON. THE EGYPTIANS, OBVIOUSLY, HAVE A MUCH  
GREATER INTEREST IN WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SETTLEMENTS  
SINCE THE SETTLEMENTS ARE ON THEIR TERRITORY IN THE SINAI  
WHAT WE'VE DONE IS TO EXPRESS THE GENERAL POSITION ON OUR  
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SETTLEMENTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Q. SINCE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO PROTECT  
AND SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY,  
AND AS YOU ALL KNOW RIGHT NOW, THE LEBANESE ARMY HAS  
FALLEN UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK BY THE SYRIANS, WHAT ARE  
YOUJ DOING ABOUT THAT?

A. WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES  
IN BEIRUT AND WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IN DAMASCUS --  
WE NOTED THAT LAST WEEK -- AND WE HAVE SUPPORTED STEPS TO  
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FIND A QUIET RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. BOTH THE  
LEBANESE AND SYRIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE MOVED ENERGETICALLY  
TO TERMINATE THE INCIDENTS AND TO REESTABLISH SECURITY.  
WE THINK THEY HAVE ACTED POSITIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY.



SPECIFICALLY, IN REGARD TO THE LEBANESE ARMY, AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDING EQUIPMENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO HELP IN REBUILDING THE LEBANESE ARMY. THIS ASSISTANCE IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR LONGSTANDING POLICY IN REBUILDING THE SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS IN REESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Q. HOW CAN YOU ESTABLISH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WHEN THE SYRIANS ARE IN LEBANON AND THE ISRAELIS PROTEST TO ANY SYRIAN MOVE TOWARDS THE SOUTH?

A. REALLY, I CAN'T DO A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN TO SAY THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING A QUIET RESOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. WE ARE SUPPORTING A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE HOPE WILL BRING GREATER AUTHORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. CAN WE LOOK ON SYRIAN OCCUPATION AS ILLEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY GUIDANCE RIGHT NOW ON THE SYRIAN POSITION. AS I RECALL, IT IS THERE AS A PEACEKEEPING FORCE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OFFICIAL RIGHT NOW ON THIS BECAUSE I'M OUT OF DATE --

Q. ON WHOSE POSITION, I MEAN?  
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A. I'LL GET THAT FOR YOU. I KNOW IT'S BEEN TALKED ABOUT AT THIS PODIUM. I'M JUST NOT TOO CLEAR ON IT MYSELF.

Q. ONE OF THE REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM THIS MORNING SAID SECRETARY VANCE INTENDS TO BEGIN A SHUTTLE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST SOMETIME SOON. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON WHETHER HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS BY THE SECRETARY TO ENGAGE IN A SHUTTLE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY DATE FOR ROY ATHERTON GOING BACK?

A. IT WILL BE SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN HERE, BUT I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC DATE.

Q. THAT MEETING IS WHEN, WEDNESDAY?

A. IT'S ON THURSDAY, THE 16TH.

Q. YES. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON DAYAN MEETING THE

PRESIDENT?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. THAT WOULD COME OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SHORTLY AFTER?" THERE IS A REPORT FROM ISRAEL THAT HE'LL BE THERE THE 20TH. DO YOU KNOW WHEN AHERTON PLANS TO LEAVE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. IT WON'T BE TOO LONG, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE DATE.

Q. I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE MY PREVIOUS QUESTION, AS I PUT UNCLASSIFIED

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IT. COULD YOU PLEASE FIND IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ANYTHIN THAT IS COMPARABLE TO WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON FRIDAY ON EXISTING SETTLEMENTS, BECAUSE AS FAR AS I KNOW, MOST OF THE STATEMENTS ALWAYS REFERRED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREA, AND THEY NEVER HINTED AT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ONES THAT ARE THERE NOW. COULD YOU PLEASE LOOK THROUGH THE FILES AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING COMPARABLE?

A. I WANT TO INSIST ON THE POINT THAT THIS IS NOT NEW IN THAT WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT THE SETTLEMENTS ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. ALL THE SECRETARY WAS DOING WAS PERHAPS SAYING THAT IN A DIFFERENT WAY: IF SOMETHING IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAW, IT SHOULD NOT EXIST.

Q. THE PRESIDENT, IN ONE OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCES, SAID HE COULD LIVE WITH THE ENLARGEMENT OF EXISTING

SETTLEMENTS; HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DISMANTLING THEM.

A. HERE IS THE WORD "DISMANTLING" AGAIN, AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT DISMANTLING THEM. I'M GOING BACK TO THE SECRETARY'S PHRASE.

Q. HOW DO YOU READ IT?

A. THEY ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAW. IF THEY ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAW, THEY SHOULD NOT BE THERE. UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM IS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

Q. I WOULD STILL LIKE YOU TO TAKE UP MY QUESTION.

A. I'LL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FRESH INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR F-16'S AND F-15'S?

A. NO.

Q. THERE IS NO DECISION THERE?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT FOR YOU AT ALL.

Q. THE PRESIDENT SAID ON SATURDAY IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE WOULD MAKE UP HIS MIND ON THE DEAL FOR THE PACKAGE.

A. I SAW THAT REPORT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 9.

Q. CAN YOU PROVIDE US LATER THIS AFTERNOON A READOUT ON ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH DAYAN, PARTICULARLY ON THE MATTER OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS?

A. AS MR. ATHERTON SAID IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AFTER THE MEETING:

--WE ALWAYS FOLLOW THE PRACTICE AFTER IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST LEADERS OF INFORMING OUR CLOSE

FRIENDS ABOUT THEM. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW YORK, MR. ATHERTON CAME TO NEW YORK TO DO IT PERSONALLY.

--FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IS TO SEE THE SECRETARY NEXT WEEK, AND MR. ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY WAS PRELIMINARY TO THAT.

--WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER NEXT WEEK.

--AS FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN SAID IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE AND MR. ATHERTON DID NOT DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF SETTLEMENTS TODAY.

3. THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION WAS GIVEN OUT AT THE DEPARTMENT LATER IN ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Q. IS IT STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY, AS STATED AT ONE POINT BY THE SPOKESMAN TODAY, THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SHOULD BE DISMANTLED?

A. --THERE SHOULD BE NO MISINTERPRETATION OF WHAT THE SPOKESMAN SAID, A FULL READING OF THE TRANSCRIPT MAKES OUR POSITION QUITE CLEAR.

--HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT GOING BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD SAID ON FRIDAY: UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW THE SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXIST, BUT THEIR FUTURE IS A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

--A READING OF THE TRANSCRIPT SHOWS THAT THE SPOKESMAN SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT HIS USE OF THE VERB "DISMANTLE" SHOULD BE STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD, AND THAT HIS ANSWERS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE SUBJECT WERE SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT NOT RPT NOT GOING BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD SAID ON FRIDAY.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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